THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) As per the reports received from the Indian Mission in USA, a total of 590 Indian workers were recruited by the foreign employer M/s Global Resources Inc., Mississippi, through M/s Diwan Consultants, Mumbai. They had gone to US on H2B visas (Guest Workers Visa Programme) valid initially for 10 months, extendable at the discretion of the employer and the US authorities. The workers were deployed in the yards of M/s Signal International, a marine fabrication company, located at Pascagoula, Mississippi and Orange Country, Port Arthur, Texas. They were mainly aggrieved on account of alleged poor accommodation and amenities, deductions from their salary for accommodation, food, electricity, water and also non-fulfilment of the alleged initial commitment of permanent residency status etc.

(c) The Indian Mission in USA has approached the US Government to conduct detailed investigation on the complaints of the Indian workers and take remedial measures. This Ministry has suspended the license of M/s Dewan Consultants and M/s. S. Mansur & Co., Mumbai, blacklisted the foreign employer and is also initiating legal action against the Recruiting Agent for violation of Emigration Act, 1983. The Indian Mission has also taken steps to withhold visas from the main US recruiters involved to prevent them from entering India to conduct recruiting operations.

BRFG for Bihar and Maharashtra

2730. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the details of works taken up under Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRFG) especially in Bihar and Maharashtra;

(b) the districts covered under this scheme;

(c) whether it is also a fact that special training is provided to representatives of Panchayats for proper implementation of this scheme; and

(d) the funds allocated under this scheme to Bihar and Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) includes the component of Rashtriya Sram Vikas Yojana (RSVY) in respect of districts which have not yet claimed their total entitlement of Rs. 45 crore. District Planning Committees have yet not been constituted in Maharashtra, therefore, releases to the districts in the State are limited to the RSVY and capacity building components. Bihar had submitted 36 district plans and 13 RSVY proposals in 2007-08, against which funds were released to the State. Under the BRGF the works/projects taken up in various districts depend on the felt needs and their prioritisation by the Panchayats in rural areas and urban local bodies (ULB) in urban areas and the District Planning Committees. An illustrative list of works taken up under BRGF/RSVY in Bihar and Maharashtra includes construction of anganwadi centres, health centres, kitchen sheds for cooking midday meals in schools, sub health centres, veterinary dispensaries, playgrounds, boundary walls for schools, additional classrooms, panchayat bhawans, community halls, village roads, drainage, electrification, drinking water supply, vocational training, etc. Details of the works taken up in the plans of various districts are available at Ministry's *website www.brgf.gov.in.*

(b) The Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) programme cover 250 districts across 27 States. The list of districts covered under the BRGF is at Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) The programme guidelines include a detailed capacity building framework for the elected representatives and staff of the Panchayati Raj Institutions with suggested modules for training. These include foundation courses with an overview of Panchayati Raj, functional courses on internal housekeeping, accounts, social audit, functional literacy course and training in implementation of schemes in various sectors, such as elementary education, public health, poverty alleviation, roads, rural electrification etc. Each of the State Governments has nominated an agency, which is the State Institute of Rural Development in most cases, to conduct the training for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The State Governments prepare plans for capacity building the training schedule for 5-years on the basis of which, the capacity building grant for each year is released. Bihar and Maharashtra received Rs. 14.46 crore and 6.19 crore, respectively, against their capacity building plans in 2006-07.

(d) The details of the allocations and release of funds in 2007-08 to Bihar and Maharashtra, under different components of the BRGF, are at Statement-II.

Statement-I

List of 250 *districts alongwith districts carved out of these districts after* 2001, *covered under the BRGF*

			Andhra Pradesh				
1	Adilabad	2	Anantpur	3	Chittoor	4	Cuddappah
5	Karimnagar	6	Khammam	7	Mabhubnagar	8	Medak
9	Nalgonda	10	Nizamabad	11	Rangareddy	12	Vizianagaram
13	Warangal						
			Arunachal Pradesh				
1	Upper Subansiri						
			Assam				
1	Barpeta	2	Bongaigaon	3	Cachar	4	Dhemaji
5	Goalpara	6	Hailakandi	7	Karbi Anglong	8	Kokrajhar
9	Marigaon	10	North Lakhimpur (Laksha)	11	North Cachar Hills		
			Bihar				
1	Araria	2	Aurangabad	3	Banka	4	Begusarai
5	Bhagalpur	6	Bhojpur	7	Buxar	8	Darbhanga
9	Gaya	10	Gopalganj	11	Jamui	12	Jehanabad/Arwal
13	Kaimur/Bhabua	14	Katihar	15	Kishanganj	16	Khagaria
17	Lakhisarai	18	Madhepura	19	Madhubani	20	Munger
21	Muzzarffarpur	22	Nalanda	23	Nawadah	24	Patna
25	Paschim Champaran	26	Purba Champaran	27	Purnia	28	Rohtas
29	Saharsa	30	Samstipur	31	Saran	32	Sheikhpura
33	Sheohar	34	Sitamarhi	35	Supaul	36	Vaishali
			Chhattisgarh				
1	Bastar	2	Bilaspur	3	Dantewada	4	Dhamtari
5	Jashpur	6	Kanker	7	Kawardha	8	Korba
9	Koriya	10	Mahasamund	11	Raigarh	12	Rajnandgaon
13	Sarguja						
			Gujarat				
1	Banaskantha	2	Dangs	3	Dahod	4	Narmada
5	Panch Mahals	6	Sabarkantha				
			Haryana				
1	Mohindergarh	2	Sirsa				

Himachal Pradesh

1	Chamba	2	Sirmaur				

Jammu & Kashmir

1	Doda/Ramban and Kishtwar	2	Kupwara	3	Poonch

Jharkhand

1	Bokaro	2	Chatra	3	Deoghar	4	Dhanbad
5	Dumka	6	Garhwa	7	Giridih	8	Godda
9	Gumla	10	Hazaribagh	11	Jamtara	12	Kodarma
13	Latehar	14	Lohardagga	15	Pachhim Singhbhum	16	Pakaur
17	Palamu	18	Ranchi	19	Sahibganj	20	Saraikela
21	Simdega						

Karnataka

1	Bidar	2	Chitradurga	3	Davangere	4	Gulbarga
5	Raichur						

Kerala

1	Palakkad	2	Wynad

Madhya Pradesh

1	Balaghat	2	Barwani	3	Betul	4	Chhatarpur
5	Damoh	6	Dhar	7	Dindori	8	Guna/Ashoknagar
9	Jhabua	10	Katni	11	Khandwa and Burhanpur	12	Mandla
13	Panna	14	Rajgarh	15	Rewa	16	Satna
17	Seoni	18	Shahdol/Anuppur	19	Sheopur	20	Shivpuri
21	Siddhi	22	Tikamgarh	23	Umaria	24	West Nimar

Maharashtra

1	Ahmednagar	2	Amravati	3	Aurangabad	4	Bhandara
5	Chandrapur	6	Dhule	7	Gadchiroli	8	Gondia
9	Hingoli	10	Nanded	11	Nandurbar	12	Yavatmal

Manipur

1	Chandel	2	Churachandpur	3	Tamenlong

Meghalaya

1	Ri Bhoi	2	South Garo Hills	3	West Garo Hills

Mizoram

1	Lawngtlai	2	Saiha

Nagaland

1	Mon	2	Tuensang/Kiphire and Longleng	3	Wokha

The total allocation for the State is being shared among five districts according to the State's formula for allocation to Village Development Boards.

Orissa

1	Bolangir	2	Boudh	3	Debagarh	4	Dhenkanal
5	Gajapati	6	Ganjam	7	Jharsuguda	8	Kalahandi
9	Keonjhar	10	Koraput	11	Malkangiri	12	Mayurbhanj
13	Nabrangpur	14	Nuapada	15	Phulbani	16	Rayagada
17	Sambalpur	18	Sonapur	19	Sundargarh		

Punjab

1	Hoshiarpur		

			Rajasthan				
1	Banswara	2	Barmer	3	Chittaurgarh	4	Dungarpur
5	Jaisalmer	6	Jalor	7	Jhalawar	8	Karoli
9	Sawai Madhopur	10	Sirohi	11	Tonk	12	Udaipur
			Sikkim				
1	Sikkim North*						

*The allocation is being shared by all the districts in the State as proposed by the State Government.

			Tamil Nadu				
1	Cuddalore	2	Dindigul	3	Nagapattinam	4	Sivagangai
5	Tiruvannamalai	6	Villupuram				
			Tripura				
1	Dhalai						
			Uttar Pradesh				
1	Ambedkar Nagar	2	Azamgarh	3	Bahraich	4	Balrampur
5	Banda	6	Barabanki	7	Basti	8	Budaun
9	Chandauli	10	Chitrakoot	11	Etah	12	Farrukhabad
13	Fatehpur	14	Gonda	15	Gorakhpur	16	Hamirpur
17	Hardoi	18	Jalaun	19	Jaunpur	20	Kaushambi
21	Kushinagar	22	Lakhimpur Kheri	23	Lalitpur	24	Maharajganj
25	Mahoba	26	Mirzapur	27	Pratapgarh	28	Raebareli
29	Sant Kabir Nagar	30	Shravasti	31	Siddharthanagar	32	Sitapur
33	Sonebhadra	34	Unnao				
			Uttaranchal				
1	Chamoli	2	Champawat	3	Tehri Garhwal		
			West Bengal				
1	Bankura	2	Birbhum	3	Dakshin Dinajpur	4	Jalpaiguri
5	Malda	6	Midnapur East	7	Midnapur West	8	Murshidabad
9	Purulia	10	South 24 Parganas	11	Uttar Dinajpur		

Statement-II

Details of the allocations and release of funds in 2007-08 to Bihar and Maharashtra under BRGF

(Rupees in crores)

Sl No	State	Allocation in 2007-08	Funds released under RSVY component	Funds released under Development Grant Component			Funds released under Capacity Building Component	Total funds released in 2007-08
				Developmental Grant released against district plans	Funds released for seeking technical support for preparation of district plans	Total funds released under Development Grant Component		
1.	**Bihar**	602.96	97.50	538.18	3.6	541.78	Not claimed	639.28
2	**Maharashtra**	253.57	107.00	Not eligible as DPCs have not been constituted in the State	1.20	1.20	Not claimed	108.20